

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on July 9, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended the drawings, the specification, and claims 5, 14 and 22. Claims 5, 14, 19, 22 and 26 are the independent claims, and claims 5, 14, 16-22, and 24-27 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner's Action has objected to the drawings for an informality. In response thereto, submitted concurrently with this Amendment are revised formal drawings, in which Figure 7 has been labeled as "Prior Art". It is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner's Action has objected to claims 14, 22 and 27 for various informalities. In response thereto, claims 14 and 22 have been amended in the manner proposed by the Examiner's Action. Moreover, it is noted that the Examiner has already made the necessary change to claim 27. This change is acceptable by the Applicant. It is requested that these objections be withdrawn.

The Examiner's Action has rejected claims 5, 14, 16-18 and 22-27 as being anticipated by *Glenn et al.* (USP 6,521,987). It is submitted that these claims are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

It is well settled that a reference may anticipate a claim within the purview of 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if all the features and all the relationships recited in the claim are taught by the referenced structure either by clear disclosure or under the principle of inherency.

Applicant's independent claim 5 has been amended to recite that at least a part of the lead terminal portion has a cross-section, that is taken along a longitudinal direction of the lead terminal portion, that is in a shape of an inverted trapezoid. This claimed configuration prevents the lead terminal portion from being detached from the sealing resin in a downward direction. This claimed feature is not disclosed (nor suggested) by the cited reference.

The Examiner's Action acknowledges in the subsequent rejection that the cited reference does not disclose this claimed feature. However, the Examiner's Action states that it would have been obvious to have modified the lead terminal portions of *Glenn et al.* to have the configuration recited in Applicant's amended independent claim 5. In particular, *Glenn* discloses in Figures 8 and 9 that the lead 63 has a second surface 64 that has a perimeter that can have a variety of different shapes to facilitate different external connections. This reference discloses that the second surface 64 may have a rectangular or a circular perimeter. A cross-sectional illustration of the lead 63 is shown in Figure 10. As shown in Figure 10, the lead 63 has a T-shaped cross-sectional profile.

The Action states that since *Glenn* teaches that the perimeter of the surface 64 of the lead 63 may have a variety of shapes, that it would be obvious to

modify the lead to have a cross-section in a shape of inverted trapezoid.

However, the reference does not present such a suggestion. Instead, it is only the profile of the surface 64 which can be modified. Regardless of whether or not the profile of the surface 64 is configured to have a circular or a rectangular shape, the cross-sectional configuration of the lead 63 will still have a T-shaped configuration, as shown in Figure 10. Thus, this disclosure from *Glenn* does not support the Examiner's contention.

The Action also states that in the alternative, the anchor ears 36 of the lead frame 30 can be modified to have any shape, including an inverted trapezoid, as long as the modification prevents the leads 30 from being pulled from the package body. However, this reference specifically discloses that the anchor ears 36 are configured to prevent the leads 30 from being pulled horizontally from the package body. In contrast, Applicant's claimed inverted trapezoid configuration is to prevent the lead terminal portion from being removed in a downwards direction from the resin. It is noted that if the leads 30 were provided with an inverted trapezoidal configuration, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 5, that this configuration would not prevent the leads 30 from being pulled horizontally from the package body, which is the entire purpose of the anchor ears 36. Thus, the cited reference does not disclose or otherwise suggest Applicant's claimed lead terminal portion having an inverted trapezoidal cross-sectional shape, as recited by independent claim 5. It is thus requested that this claim be allowed.

The Examiner's Action has also rejected independent claims 14, 22 and 26. Because claims 14 and 22 have been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 15 and 23, respectively, these particular rejections had been rendered moot. Moreover, Applicant's independent claim 26 recites similar features to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 5. As noted above with respect to independent claim 5, the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) a part of a lead terminal portion, that has a cross-section taken along a plane that is perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the lead terminal portion, in a shape of an inverted trapezoid. As such, the Action has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation against independent claim 26. It is thus requested that these claims all be allowed and that these rejections be withdrawn.

The Examiner's Action has also rejected claims 15, 19-21 and 23 as being obvious over *Glenn et al.* Because claims 15 and 23 have been canceled, and the subject matter recited therein amended into independent claims 14 and 22, respectively, Applicant will treat this rejection as pertaining to claims 14, 19-21 and 22. It is submitted that these claims are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

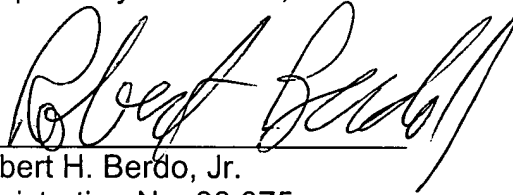
Applicant's independent claims 14, 19 and 22 all recite that the lead terminal portions have a cross-section in a shape of an inverted trapezoid. As argued above with respect to independent claim 5, *Glenn et al.* do not disclose or otherwise suggest this configuration. As such, it is submitted that these claims are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited reference. It is thus

requested that these claims all be allowed and that the Examiner's various rejections all be withdrawn.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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